

United States organized and sacrificed to give their unwavering support to those in uniform.

Today, there are less than 6,000,000 surviving World War II veterans and we mourn the passing of greater than 1,200 veterans each day.

Mr. President, this is why the construction of the National World War II Memorial must follow an expeditious and critical path to completion. In 1994, legislation was enacted which approved the location of a memorial to this epic era in an area of the National Mall that includes the Rainbow Pool.

Since July 1995, the National World War II Memorial site and design have been subject to 19 public hearings that have resulted in an endorsement from the State Historic Preservation Officer of the District of Columbia, three endorsements from the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board, and most significantly, four approvals from the Commission of Fine Arts and four approvals from the National Capital Planning Commission. In July of this year, the Commission of Fine Arts approved the design of the memorial followed by final architectural design approval by the National Capital Planning Commission on September 21, 2000.

Mr. President, it is my feeling that construction of this magnificent memorial, which has received a thorough review and given final approval by all jurisdictional authorities, should begin without delay. It is imperative that this fitting tribute to those brave and patriotic Americans be completed and dedicated while surviving veterans are still alive.

I ask my Senate colleagues to support this resolution and allow our World War II veterans, veterans of the most devastating war the world has known, to see and be a part of the memorial they so fiercely deserve.

Mr. President, I sought to get the co-sponsorship of all those in this body who served in World War II. The ability to do this, time-wise, precluded that, but I am certain that almost all would have joined. Therefore, it is a particular privilege for me to submit this to the Senate. Congressman STUMP will introduce the identical measure in the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, I ask that we take action on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the concurrent resolution?

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 145) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 145

Whereas World War II is the defining event of the twentieth century for the United States and its wartime allies;

Whereas in World War II, more than 16,000,000 American men and women served in uniform in the Armed Forces, more than 400,000 of them gave their lives, and more than 670,000 of them were wounded;

Whereas many millions more on the home front in the United States organized and sac-

rificed to give unwavering support to those in uniform;

Whereas fewer than 6,000,000 World War II veterans are surviving at the end of the twentieth century, and the Nation mourns the passing of more than 1,200 veterans each day;

Whereas Congress, in Public Law 103-422 (108 Stat. 4356) enacted in 1994, approved the location of a memorial to this epic era in an area of the National Mall that includes the Rainbow Pool;

Whereas since 1995, the National World War II Memorial site and design have been the subject of 19 public hearings that have resulted in an endorsement from the State Historic Preservation Officer of the District of Columbia, three endorsements from the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board, the endorsement of many Members of Congress, and, most significantly, four approvals from the Commission of Fine Arts and four approvals from the National Capital Planning Commission (including the approvals of those Commissions for the final architectural design);

Whereas on Veterans Day 1995, the President dedicated the approved site at the Rainbow Pool on the National Mall as the site for the National World War II Memorial; and

Whereas fundraising for the National World War II Memorial has been enormously successful, garnering enthusiastic support from half a million individual Americans, hundreds of corporations and foundations, dozens of civic, fraternal, and professional organizations, state legislatures, students in 1,100 schools, and more than 450 veterans groups representing 11,000,000 veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is appropriate for the United States to memorialize in the Nation's Capitol the triumph of democracy over tyranny in World War II, the most important event of the twentieth century;

(2) the will of the American people to memorialize that triumph and all who labored to achieve it, and the decisions made on that memorialization by the appointed bodies charged by law with protecting the public's interests in the design, location, and construction of memorials on the National Mall in the Nation's Capitol, should be fulfilled by the construction of the National World War II Memorial, as designed, at the approved and dedicated Rainbow Pool site on the National Mall; and

(3) it is imperative that expeditious action be taken to commence and complete the construction of the National World War II Memorial so that the completed memorial will be dedicated while Americans of the World War II generation are alive to receive the national tribute embodied in that memorial, which they earned with their sacrifice and achievement during the largest and most devastating war the world has known.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair, the floor staff, and the staffs of many Senators who were able to clear this resolution. I appreciate that.

I note the presence of another colleague on the floor. I would like to consult the Republican floor staff before I address the Senate further.

Mr. President, I understand our distinguished colleague wishes to address the Senate for a period of time. How much time will he require?

Mr. WYDEN. Five minutes will be plenty.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, following the remarks of Mr. WYDEN for not to exceed 5 minutes, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, twenty-two days ago I was here on the Senate floor helping to secure the support of 100 Senators in passing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. It was a good day for rural Americans when the Senate adopted S. 1608 unanimously.

Today is even better for rural Americans. A few minutes ago, the Senate passed legislation that now reflects an agreement among all stakeholders—the schools, the counties, the House and Senate and the Administration—that assures House and Senate passage and the President's signature. This bill is the winning formula for everyone concerned about rural communities.

The bill the Senate has passed is fundamentally unchanged from S. 1608. The basics are the same: the purposes, the funding formula, and the flexibility for counties to choose how to spend a portion of the payment. The bill will provide stable payments for education and roads in more than 750 timber-dependent counties across this country and real opportunities for environmental restoration on our national forests.

The bill will make sure our rural communities do not become economic sacrifice zones. It will help people in forest communities adapt to changing national forest management policies by creating a funding formula alternative to timber receipts.

Policy changes in Washington, D.C. affecting logging on national forests across this country have caused timber receipts to fall an average of 70 percent over the last 15 years, and by as much as 90 percent in some areas. As timber receipts disappeared, roads fell deeper into disrepair, school programs were cut to the bone, and some schools even had to close their doors at least one day a week.

This legislation will give rural communities a more predictable payment formula than the current roller coaster system based on timber receipts. The amount going toward schools and roads would represent 80-85 percent of the three-year average of the highest payment years from fiscal years 1986 to 1999. The amount would be calculated on a state-by-state, three-high-year basis, but would be distributed among the counties on a county-by-county,